

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 SAM-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14

USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 DRC-01 /172 W

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O 250013Z MAY 74

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4249

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1965

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, IR, IZ

SUBJ: SECURITY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS ON IRAN-IRAQ RESOLUTION

REF: USUN 1945 (NOTAL), 1920 (NOTAL) AND 1900 (NOTAL)

1. WHAT WERE TO HAVE BEEN SIMPLE SECURITY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS
MAY 24 ON PROCEDURE FOR ADOPTING DRAFT RESOLUTION ON IRAN-IRAQ

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DISPUTE, TO WHICH BOTH PARTIES HAD AGREED, TURNED INTO

CONTENTIOUS AND POTENTIALLY SERIOUS CONTROVERSY AS SOVIETS TRIED TO AMEND RESOLUTION TO FURTHER THEIR PEACEKEEPING DOCTRINE.

2. TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF DRAFT RESOLUTION REPORTED USUN 1900, SOVIET AMBASSADOR MALIK PROPOSED TO ADD FOLLOWING SENTENCE: "THE NATURE AND SIZE OF SUCH ASSISTANCE (I.E., THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S ASSISTANCE TO THE PARTIES IF THEY REQUEST IT) WILL BE DETERMINED UPON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL." PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT CLEARLY IS PRIMARILY TO ESTABLISH PRINCIPLE OF CONTINUING AUTHORITY AND CONTROL OF COUNCIL VIS-A-VIS SECRETARY GENERAL. SECONDARY OBJECTIVE (AND THIS MAY PROVE MALIK'S UNDOING) MAY BE TO RE-ENFORCE IRAQI CONTENTION THAT SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD REMAIN SEIZED OF QUESTION. THIS, OF COURSE, IRAN STRONGLY OPPOSES, MAINTAINING THAT DISPUTE IS ONE FOR TWO PARTIES, NOT UN, TO RESOLVE.

3. AMBASSADOR BENNETT VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED SOVIET AMENDMENT. HIS REASONS WERE (1) PARTIES HAD WITH DIFFICULTY WORKED OUT MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE TEXT, (2) PROPOSAL RAISED REAL DANGER OF AGREEMENT UNRAVELING SINCE FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE REQUIRED BETWEEN SECRETARY GENERAL'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE WECKMAN AND TWO PARTIES WITH PRESIDENT OF SC AND (3) ADDITION WAS IN ANY CASE SUPERFLUOUS SINCE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY OF COUNCIL WAS NOT IN DISPUTE. UK AMBASSADOR RICHARD ABLY SUPPORTED US POSITION, SAYING HE SHARED AMBASSADOR BENNETT'S SURPRISE THAT SO UNNECESSARY AND POTENTIALLY DISRUPTIVE AN AMENDMENT SHOULD HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED.

4. AUSTRIA, AUSTRALIA AND FRANCE INTERVENED TO SAY THEY BELIEVED IT UNWISE TO UPSET AGREEMENT'S DELICATE BALANCE BY ADDING OR SUBTRACTING FROM WHAT PARTIES HAD THEMSELVES AGREED. PRC AVOIDED SUBSTANCE OF DISCUSSION, BUT SAID IT WOULD HAVE TO EXPLAIN PRIOR TO VOTE ITS REASONS FOR NOT PARTICIPATING. SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT (KENYA) SAID HE WOULD CONSULT FURTHER WITH PARTIES IF COUNCIL WISHED, BUT THIS WAS TEXT THAT COULD BE ADOPTED, AND HE FEARED ANY AMENDMENT WOULD LEAD TO LENGTHY FURTHER ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS. IRAQ SAID IT AGREED WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT, BUT LATER REMARKED

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IT COULD ACCEPT DRAFT RES AS IT STOOD SINCE SC APPROVAL OF SYG ASSISTANCE WAS IMPLICIT IN PRESENT TEXT.

6. DECISION WAS TAKEN AT CLOSE OF CONSULTATIONS THAT COUNCIL WOULD MEET NEXT WEEK TO CONSIDER DRAFT RESOLUTION. ANYONE WISHING TO PROPOSE AMENDMENTS AT THAT TIME COULD DO SO. SC PRESIDENT SUBSEQUENTLY SET DATE AND TIME OF MEETING MAY 28 AT 3:00 PM.

7. WHILE CONSULTATIONS WERE IN PROGRESS, WE ASKED IRANIAN AMB HOVEYDA HIS OPINION OF USSR AMENDMENT. HE SAID IRAN WOULD ADAMANTLY OPPOSE ANY CHANGE TO RESOLUTION, AND PARTICULARLY ONE WHICH EXPLICITLY ACKNOWLEDGED CONTINUING SECURITY COUNCIL ROLE. WE TOLD HIM IT WAS CRITICAL THAT IRAN STAND FIRM ON THIS POSITION IF AGREEMENT WERE NOT TO COME APART. WE SAID US AND IRAN OPPOSED AMENDMENT FOR SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT REASONS, BUT THAT IF WE DID NOT WAVER IN OPPOSITION, AMENDMENT WOULD PROBABLY FAIL.

8. WE CONSULTED FURTHER WITH IRANIANS AFTER CONSULTATIONS. WE SAID PARLIAMENTARY SITUATION, AS WE SAW IT, WAS THAT SIX MEMBERS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY ABSTAIN ON AMENDMENT (US, UK, AUSTRIA, AUSTRALIA, FRANCE, AND COSTA RICA) SO THAT ONE MORE ABSTENTION WAS REQUIRED TO PREVENT ADOPTION. WE URGED IRAN TO WORK HARD TO PERSUADE NON-ALIGNED MEMBERS -- WITH WHOM IT HAS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE -- TO VOTE AGAINST AMENDMENT, OR AT MINIMUM ABSTAIN. WE PROMISED TO DO LIKEWISE. (INDONESIA HAS ALREADY GIVEN US AD REFERENDUM ASSURANCE OF ABSTENTION, AND SIX NOTED ARE ALSO DISPOSED TO ABSTAIN.)

9. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT MAY WISH TO AUTHORIZE EMBASSY TEHRAN TO EXPLAIN SITUATION TO GOI, TO UNDERLINE SOVIET MISCHIEF-MAKING IN MATTER OF VITAL INTEREST TO IRAN, AND TO URGE THAT IRANIAN DELEGATION BE INSTRUCTED NOT TO WAVER IN ITS OPPOSITION TO AMENDMENT (BEGIN UNDERLINE) OR ANY VARIANTS THEREOF (END UNDERLINE). EMBASSY MOSCOW MAY ALSO CONSIDER ABOVE USEFUL AMMUNITION IN ITS ONGOING DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS ON PEACEKEEPING PRINCIPLES.
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